GRAVE OF POOR NELL

Unique Search Through a London Burial Ground Ordered

FOR NELL GWYNNE'S GRAVE

Pride of the House of Lords Sprung From the Variety Acteus Whose Frenks Are Part of Mistory.

The duchess of St. Albans and the earl of Burborlare but two of the many members of England's aristocracy under whose suspices there begins this month a search for the remains of Neil Geynne, "the anusy piece," beloved of Britain's second hing Charles, who wrote her name in the history of pleasure with letters as glided that nothing has ever since outshone them. That the monarch's "merric maide" was interest somewhere in the London burial ground of St. Martin win the Field is all that the historians feel sure of. Every scrap of paper on file in the Every scrap of paper on tile in the n, bearing over remotely upon the et, will be catalogued and exam-by the let of August. These are expected to give a clew, and the grave ers of St. Martin's having furthered the search by a vigorous application of their spades, the easiest in which Nell has reposed these two hundred years and more will be exhumed and reinterred, while a superb specimen of sculpture will, at the expense of her titled descendants, denote the last resting place of "folly's foolish fairy."

This unique enterprise would not be as interesting to the peerage, and the subscriptions from such titled lions as Lord Paget, Lady Brooke, the earl of Mull and the duke of Leeds might be serous had not Nell Gwynne's cleated baron of Headington, earl of flurford and duke of St. Albans by his majesty Charles II., become the progenitor of a long line of prosper-ous members of the nobility, as that to-day the blood of this bygone variety actress flows in the veins of the proudest and best born in England.

The town of Hereford also claims to be the hirthplace of Neil Gwynne, whose real name, on the authority of one of her noble descendants, was Margaret Sympott. He this as it may, there seems no doubt that the restored king's coming favorite was born in the gutter and brought up in the streets. sold fish on the highways, and the carl of March possesses her picture in Intiered garb, with a basket of piscstorial wares poised on her head. She



NELL GWYNNE, AS "THE FAIR SHEP-MERDESS.

Diske of St. Alban's Collection. sleeping up back alleys. The beauty of her face and figure and the charm of her roice next imparted a flavor to champagne and dainty dishes which Nell served in an establishment and to a company that it would be less embarcassing to conjecture than to specify. In the middle of her teens she turned up at Drury Lane the ater, residing oranges in the pit and turning the laugh with witty sailles upon many a bold youth who regarded her fresh charms perhaps too arriently. The leading players at last found it to their interest to put Nell upon the stage.

The girl's career for the pert few years is no less conventionally brilliant and no less renial than that of other beautiful and unscrupulous devotees of pleasure. The inevitable lover was one Charles Hart, an actor. The Incr-Stable man with money appeared in the person of Lord Buckhurst. Nell went off with him in her seventeenth year and the two proceeded to live in clover at Epsons. Landon's public regretted her, for her singing and acting had

made Drury Lane a frequented resort. The cup of bitterness was tasted in three mouths. The noble lord left her. the former lover turned his back and Neil had to beg a place at Drury Lane egain, and begin as an actron all over

Noll became so prosperous new that Lord Roohester and the duke of Boole logham both nearly pertshed, if one may believe some vorses of that period, "In the thirst they felt to rink the prise that fell in tears from her awent eyes." The duke at last, "wearying of the womb," as he same himself, musiderately recommended ber to Charles II. The king according by went to the play for a night of the Venue. His majesty seemed not partionisely improved until Nell came out in the spilogue, wearing a black hat, of which the brim was wider than the circumference of the biggest cart wheel. This concert brought down the house. The king was overpowered. He went back of the menes and said to Nati that never had he seen sin it rollmemont. He further swors that unless she looked with favor upon him England most do without her Charles Doubtless to avert so dire a calamity, Nell accepted the monerch's invitation to go with him in his seach to Whitehall. This was about

Thus began the royal facts of a worse on when until the death of Charles II. was the rater of the rater of Registed.

and letters that passed between tilepair. Bishop Surnet is authority for
the statement that the king larished
over sixty throwand gounds upon this
giri of twenty in a very short time, and
presented her with jewels and dresses
insummentals. In return sho presented
him with a son. The event securred
in 1672, Shortly afterward, Kell retired from the stage forever.

She new became Mmc. Eilen, was
given a liberal allowance and a handsome manalon at 70 Pail Mail, near his
majesty's court. The king was
"Charles" to her, and she to him was
"Seily." The wise and good in Enghaid could do nothing but mourn the
king's subjection to "this impulent
hussy."



CHARLES IL'S PICTURE OF NEIL GWYNNE. [Duke of St. Alban's Collection.]

ticularly opposed. Failing to persuade the king to nullify it, the favorite got into a great temper. She locked herself in her house and refused to see his majesty. This drove the king to distraction. He finally appeared under her window in the dead of night and besought admittance, declaring he would do anything for love of Nell. Nell opened her window and threw Nell opened her window and threw down a paper which proved to be a copy of the obnoxious edict. She com-manded the monarch to est it and swear never to offend her so again. Charles obsdiently devoured the parch-ment and the beauteous one capitu-

complaining that he was worn out with cares of state and must be amused. She suggested a game of hare and hounds. Charles attired himself in an old doublet and breeches while his mistress put on a masquarade suit. So accoutered, the two filled their pockets with small coin and Nell, having improvised a bit which the king took in his mouth held a line attached to it. Then the lovers went helter-skelter long the dark London streets, cry-ng: "Hare and hounds! hare and hounds!" scattering money as they went. Of course every night prowler within a mile was after the pair pell-mell, and Van Bossen tells how all the citizens got up out of their beds

Nell had rivals for the king's favor, but she triumphed over them all. A French woman, whom Charles had made duchess of Portsmouth, scorned the English girl for having been born in a coal hole. A bitter war arose between those two and the court of England became a warm place in conse-quence for everybody, the king in-cluded.

Nell had a second son who died in his ninth year, whereupon Charles threatened to destroy himself. The first son, named after the king, was ennobled and in time betrothed to the heiress of the twentieth earl of Oxford. From this youth are descended the many aristocrats who to-day are proudly aiding to discover and honor the grave of Nell Gwynne.

The closing years of King Charles' reign were the most brilliant of Nell's

life. The luxury and magnificence in which she lived, the splendor of her beauty and the fame of her con mests, when, clad in costly velvet, rare satin and the jewels of an Indian idol, she frequented the royal drawing rooms, coquetted with the courtiers and gambled away fortunes with the duchess of Mazarin and Lady Cavendish, filled all England and all France. Not a poet, playwright or author but knelt before her for patronage, and Nell, who could not even write her own name, became literature's sponsor in

The extravagance of eulogy became absolutely blasphemous. Mrs. Aphra Behor wrote to Nell Gwynne, entreating leave to adore her because the divine powers were nothing in comparison with Mistress Ellens. There are vague rumors of a lost, degraded beggar maid appearing before Nell at this time, claiming to be her sister and being ignominiously spurned. Most biographers consider this story but the

fabrication of romancers.
"The king is dead!" was proclaimed throughout England in February, 1685, and Nell's power died with his majes-Although the late king's brother and successor was kind and liberal. Mistress Gwynne could not publicly face her deposition from the throne of love and she lived in strict retirement until her death, November, 1687. Apothirty-eight.

MADAGASCAR'S QUEEN.

Unique Commemoration of Her Dusky

Majesty's Accession. In Madagascar's far-away isle the biggest kind of an anniversary celebration is under way. On July 18 Queen Ranavalona will have been ten years upon the throne, and her enthusiastic subjects are stirring with might and main to render the occasion memorable with parades, fireworks and general public rejoicing throughout the faland. Rainilalarivony, the queen's prime minister and husband in one, the married into Madagaspar's royal family shortly after her present maj-eaty came to the throne, is honorary chairman of the general committee formed to carry out the programme of feativities, and, as a matter of course, he will some in for a good share of the

The celebration is expected to open on the 19th of July with a special drill

will be on band to make complimentary operchas.

The populace are heart and soul in the movement. Houses will be decorated with flags and lanteres and the school children are to sing patriotic songs in the public plans. On the 18th, which is the anniversary day, there will be fireworks galore and counterfeit presentments of the royal family in red, blue, green and yellow flame will be ignitud on the highest points in the city. The alayse alayery in a patriarchal form exists in Madagascar—will not be overlooked in the general rejoicings. Many of them are to be given their liberty, and all will be more or less feasted and allowed special privileges for the day.

The people are divided into a great many clama and seldom intermarry Racial differences, however, are to be forgotten for the occasion. The Hovas, who number about one million, have subscribed for a superb memorial which will be presented by one of their atriarchs. The Sakalavas, who are as numerous as the Hovas, have sent gifts to the capital, including one superb necklace which the queen will wear to church. The Bemileos will not be behind their dusky brethren in expressions of fealty; the remaining tribes, Betsimi, Bavas, Sakvas and Arabs, have received assurances of the pleasure her majesty feels in the interest they are manifesting in the celebration. There is talk of a monster gathering of these tribes at Tamatave, the principal port of Madagascar on the ering of these tribes at Tamatave, the principal port of Madagascar on the east coast, and if the project is carried out one of the most unique processions ever witnessed will march the streets of that quaint city.

The Malagasy have reason to rejoice over Ranavalona. Since her accession the island, which is the third largest in the world, reckoning Australia as a continent, has become of real commercial importance. The government, it is true, is an absolute monarchy; but the queen has always modified and tempered her away by customs and usages which now have almost the force of law. She is advised by her husband, the prime minister, who is now the real source of all political pow-er, and is perhaps the most wonderful statesman, not of the Caucasian race, that ever lived. There are a number of ministers who act as head of departments education, justice, the interior and so on. They will all be given special honors in view of the happy event to be colebrated. The succes sion to the crown is hereditary in the royal house, but not necessarily by strict primogeniture. The queen may designate her successor, and some nomination in this connection is expected as a special mark of her pleas ure during the anniversary week.

The French government, which maintains a resident general with small military escort, at the capital. and exter gascar, proposes to honor the event by decorating its garrison headquarters and drilling before the queen. A com-plimentary address on behalf of the president of France will be made by the president. The British govern-ment will in a measure participate in the ceremonies and Consul W. C. Pick-ersgill has been instructed to congrutulate Queen Ranavalona on behalf of

The occasion is expected to have much influence in soothing the irritation prevalent in Madagascar in consquence of the mixed authority of Eng lish, French and natives. While the native government retains absolute in dependence in all domestic legislation and control of the tribes generally, the foreign powers have often been dietatorial; and two or three times open breaches have been imminent.

The present queen is the great-granddaughter of Rahety, sister of King Andrianampoinimerina, a fact of which she is very proud. She was born in 1881 and was appointed queen by her predecessor of her own sex and name. The royal dynasty of Mada-gascar is very blue blooded and very black skinned, having reigned since far back in the seventeen hundreds. Since 1810 the island has been more or less known to civilized men; but only about 1861 did it become really accessi-

ble for trading purposes.

The present sovereign is of a genial sunny temperament, but apt to be hanty in action. For instance, she hurled a dish of boiled cabbage at the captain of the palace guard about six months ago; and that functionary, try-ing to escape the projectile's force by catching it on his spear, only succeed-ed in sending the object through the plate glass window of the palace. He was immediately cashiered and is supposed to be in one of the dungeons of the interior at this moment. The soldier, it is announced, will receive a royal pardon and restoration to his former rank, in view of the happy

events shortly to be commemorated.

Queen Ranavalons is very fond of ice cream, a deliency which the climate of her dominions renders it offensive to include in. For a long time an old American woman alone made the royal palate freeze with the delicious decoction; but a young white fellow having turned up who could make very enjoy-able less, her majesty gave him a snug place in her retinue. But this did not please the elderly dame who made the ice eream. She went whispering about with the venom of scandal upon her tongue, and it did not take long for the prime minister to make up his mind that the young man must go. The queen thereupon declared that she could not live without water ices. It therefore became necessary to find a person capable of manufacturing that delicacy. An elderly woman was discovered, qualified for the task, and she received the position so long held by the young man. The latter was excert-ed out of the palace by the guards, and the chromicier declares that the queen fainted as he marched off. It was dur-ing this incident that Madagnesar was first declared to need only a box office and a fielret taker to become a comic

The queen is, in a measure, connected with the churches formed by the Lundon Mischestry society on her

to the queen's voice sepulchrally gosh-ing from the funnel of the machine they knelt down and swore that never had a desire to rebel entered their minds

The prime minister walked upstairs.

"Do you want anything? Can I im-

prove your condition in any way?" There was some murmuring, and finally a general debate ensued. Raivilaiarivony talked them into a good humor, and presently the malefactors gave up their weapons and became reasonable. The prime minister at once increased their pay and lightened

Incidents like these are very charneteristic of him. When the queen wishes to punish some display of irreverence for royalty, her husband mollifies her and prevents a collision with the people. The bandits which infested the island have been much reduced in numbers through his efforts.

The rejoicings to come this month are, however, merely preliminary to a grand national demonstration in No-vember next. The queen's coronation occurred on November 22, 1883, and as the tenth anniversary of it comes in cool weather and during the season of fashionable Madagascar's greatest so-cial activity, there will be no end of jollity at Antanansrivo.

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The queen's subjects are five-daths pugma and do not jurificularly favor her Christian leaning. Once her majority arose in church and severely represent a minister who made allusious to the accountability of monarcha. On another occasion she presented a lot of native ideas and futishes to a ministrary and told him to convert the Chelestery

The queen is much pleased with the phenograph. She has been spending hours lately talking into one and ientening to the metallic repetition of the words that ensues. She quelled a rebellion in the interior not long ago by dispatching a loaded phonograph in charge of the trusted officer of her guard. When the native chiefs listened to the masses roles as substable make

a desire to rebel entered their minds.
In numerous other ways the queen has taken advantage of the inventions of white men to increase her infinence over her subjects. The telephone is quite an instrument of terror in her hands, and the typewriter is an unspeakable delight. The queen has pounded several machines to pieces in the last month or two, and is still prescriptor.

practicing.

The prime minister is about the only one able to entirely control the dusky lady. He is of her own race and a very politic man. It is well known that his tact has crushed more than one incipient revolution. Some months since the captain of the guard awoke Ravilaiarivony early in the morning. The prime minister came out into the hallway of the palace to learn that an insurrection had broken out in the palace itself. The conspirators were in possession of the upper floors and while the dispute was nominally about rations it wouldn't have required much to impart to the matter all the dignity of an uprising. of an uprising.

Unarried and unattended he passed the sentinel, appeared before the dissatis-fied soldiers and said in Malagasy: "Boys, have I ever treated you ill?"

There was silence.

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